UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 09/993,481 | 11/27/2001 | Ming-Hsiao Hsieh | HSIE3022/EM | 7116 |

23364 7590 03/29/2004

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 SLATERS LANE
FOURTH FLOOR
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

| EXAMINER | |
|---|---|
| SANTOS, PATRICK J D | |

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|---|---|
| 2171 | 2 |

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 09/993,481 | HSIEH, MING-HSIAO | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Patrick J Santos | 2171 | |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *27 November 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-9* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-9* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *27 November 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

1. Claim 7 objected to because of the following informality: the claim ends with a comma rather than a period (Clm. 7, ln. 8). Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,446,113 to Ozzie et al. (hereafter Ozzie '113).

Claim 1:

Regarding Claim 1, Ozzie '113 discloses a method for synchronously updating screen data of a database application program at a plurality of clients (Ozzie '113: col. 3, lns. 48-65; col. 14, lns. 15-19), the method comprising:

- installing a reference table at a server of a network system (Ozzie '113: col. 10, ln. 39 to col. 11, ln. 14; Fig. 3, items 316 and 320; col. 14, lns. 32-40);

- recording filenames of databases in a database system opened by the clients over the network system in the reference table (Ozzie '113: col. 10, ln. 39 to col. 11, ln. 14);
- when one of the clients updates data of the database at the server, enabling the client to read the reference table for identifying the filenames of the databases opened by the other clients (Ozzie '113: col. 12, lns. 50-54; col. 13, lns. 43-59); and
- transmitting updated data at one client to the other clients (Ozzie '113: col. 13, lns. 43-59); and
- updating data of corresponding fields on a screen of the database application program at each of the other clients (Ozzie '113: col. 14, lns. 15-19).

In general, Ozzie '113 discloses an application collaboration system. Examiner reads the "data model" (Ozzie '113: col. 3, ln. 58) as a database. Furthermore, while preferred embodiment of the invention of Ozzie '113 makes use of "asynchronous" updates (Ozzie '113: col. 11, ln. 31), note that said embodiment is directed to HTTP communications, and Ozzie '113 also takes care to disclose the synchronous embodiment as well (Ozzie '113: col. 9: lns. 24-56).

Claim 2:

Regarding Claim 2, Ozzie '113 discloses all the limitations of Claim 1 (supra). Further note that Ozzie '113 discloses the network system comprises at least one server and a plurality of clients coupled to the server, and each client and the server are capable of communicating data by utilizing a network communication protocol implemented on the network application program installed in the network system (Ozzie '113: col. 4, lns. 21-46).

Claim 3:

Regarding Claim 3, Ozzie '113 discloses all the limitations of Claim 2 (supra). Further note that Ozzie '113 discloses the network communication protocol is a Transport Control Protocol/Internet Protocol communication protocol (Ozzie '113: col. 4, lns. 21-46; col. 2, ln. 16-29).

Claim 4:

Regarding Claim 4, Ozzie '113 discloses all the limitations of Claim 1 (supra). Further note, that Ozzie '113 discloses the database system comprises at least one database for storing a variety of records each having a unique filename of the database (Ozzie '113: col. 11, lns. 7-14). Since Ozzie '113 discloses a general method to share applications, note that the "document" of Ozzie '113 (Ozzie '113: col. 11, ln. 8) reads on a database.

Claim 5:

Regarding Claim 5, Ozzie '113 discloses all the limitations of Claim 1 (supra). Further note, that Ozzie '113 discloses the database application program installed in each client is capable of entering the database system, so that the screen of the database application program at each client is available for a user to enter the database system at the server and to input data into the record of the database or search data stored in the records of the database (Ozzie '113: col. 10, lns. 24-28; col. 10, ln. 39 to col. 11, ln. 14).

Claim 6:

Regarding Claim 6, Ozzie '113 discloses all the limitations of Claim 1 (supra). Further note, that Ozzie '113 discloses each client is capable of entering the database system at the server by executing the installed database application program and the database application program of

the database system downloaded from the server (Ozzie '113: col. 10, lns. 24-28; col. 10, ln. 39 to col. 11, ln. 14; col. 4, lns. 64-66).

4. Claims 1, and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,654,748 issued to Rabung et al. (hereafter Rabung '748).

Claim 1:

Regarding Claim 1, Rabung '748 discloses a method for synchronously updating screen data of a database application program at a plurality of clients (Rabung '748: col. 1, lns. 16-20; col. 2, lns. 29-40), the method comprising:

- installing a reference table at a server of a network system (Rabung '748: col. 4, lns.7-13);
- recording filenames of databases in a database system opened by the clients over the network system in the reference table (Rabung '748: col. 6, lns.7-13; Fig. 1H);
- when one of the clients updates data of the database at the server, enabling the client to read the reference table for identifying the filenames of the databases opened by the other clients (Rabung '748: col. 8, lns. 33-48); and
- transmitting updated data at one client to the other clients (Rabung '748: col. 8, lns. 45-53); and
- updating data of corresponding fields on a screen of the database application program at each of the other clients (Rabung '748: col. 8, lns. 51-57).

Claim 7:

Regarding Claim 7, Rabung '748 discloses all the limitations of Claim 1 (supra). Further note that Rabung '748 also discloses the reference table comprises a plurality of fields for storing

an IP address, a communication port number, and the filename of the database opened by the database application program of each client coupled to the server (Rabung '748: col. 6, lns.7-13; col. 17, ln. 62 to col. 18, ln. 13; Figs. 1H and 13A-C).

Note that the table in Fig. 13C includes the IP address and the table in Fig. 1H illustrates the file name of the database. The described database schema of this data is exemplary, and does not prevent the data from the two tables from being combined. Further note that adding a communication port number is inherent to an IP address in creating a greater level of specificity.

Claim 8:

Regarding Claim 7, Rabung '748 discloses all the limitations of Claim 7 (supra). Further note that Rabung '748, discloses that when each client enters the database system at the server for inputting or searching data, the server performs the steps of:

- detecting and reading the IP addresses, the communication port number, and the filenames of the open databases of the database system at each client (Rabung '748: col. 7, lns. 59-61; col. 8, lns. 10-24) – See Note A below;
- sequentially writing the same into the corresponding fields of the reference table (Rabung '748: col. 17, ln. 62 to col. 18, ln. 13);
- determining whether an updating is performed on the records of the database corresponding to the filename of the database being opened after each client has entered the server (Rabung '748: col. 8, lns. 13-20; col. 17, lns. 50-53; col. 17, ln. 62 to col. 18, ln. 13); and
- if a result in the determination is positive, transmitting contents of the reference table to the clients after the updating (Rabung '748: col. 8, lns. 51-53; col. 18, lns. 14-34).

Note A - The transport cell lists contain the IP address, communication port number, and filename as per the discussion regarding Claim 7, supra. (Rabung '748: col. 6, lns.7-13; col. 17, ln. 62 to col. 18, ln. 13; Figs. 1H and 13A-C).

Claim 9:

Regarding Claim 7, Rabung '748 discloses all the limitations of Claim 8 (supra). Further note that Rabung '748, discloses that Rabung '748 discloses that after the reference table transmitted from the server has been received therein, the client performs the steps of:

- reading contents of the fields of the reference table for identifying the filenames of the databases opened by the other clients (Rabung '748: col. 7, lns. 59-61; col. 8, lns. 10-24); and
- transmitting updated data to the other clients for updating data of the related fields on the screen of the database application program at each of the other clients (Rabung '748: col. 8, lns. 51-53; col. 18, lns. 14-34).

***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- U.S. Patent No. 6,584,493 issued to Butler, "Multiparty Conferencing and Collaboration System Utilizing a Per-Host Model Command, Control, and Communication Structure." Reference discloses the Microsoft NetMeeting 3.0 (TM) infrastructure for application sharing.
- U.S. Patent No. 6,204,847 issued to Wright, "Shared Virtual Desktop Collaborative Application System." Reference discloses a means to share desktops re: collaboration servers.

- U.S. Patent No. 5,892,949 issued to Noble, "ATE Test Programming Architecture." Another reference that teaches a model-view-controller type architecture extended to the network. Disclosed invention is based on a CORBA ORB which provides much art that reads on a listing an IP Address, Port, and Object Name (including a database file).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick J.D. Santos whose telephone number is 703-305-0707. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patrick J.D. Santos
March 23, 2004

SAFET METJAHIC
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100